MR. L. H. JACOB: Investigation has shown that there is a lot of land which could be brought under cultivation under the existing channels but which has not yet been so converted; therefore, Government consider that, until these lands are brought under cultivation, there is no need for opening any fresh channel.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know whether, when considering the question of opening a channel, the area that it will irrigate will not be considered?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes, that *is* considered. In the present instance, the only question is whether the people, who have not converted so far, land which they can convert and for which they have a channel even now, will really convert other lands for which the proposed channel is intended.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I am asking whether the area that the proposed channel will irrigate was considered by the department in deciding the question?

MR. L. H. JACOB: It was considered.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, may I know the total area that the proposed channel will irrigate?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I am afraid, I have not got the information; but the matter will be enquired into.

The opinion of Dr. Peter Lakshmanan about Mr. Hilkiah.

7. MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the opinion recorded by Dr. Peter Lakshmanan about Mr. Hilkiah?

MR. K. GEORGE: The question is vague, as it does not specify when and in what connection the opinion was recorded.

Statement showing rent of shops and tree-tax.

8. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Municipal Councils*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the revenue realised from

(*a*) the rent of independent shops; and

(*b*) the tree-tax?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) and (*b*) The statement containing the information required is laid on the table.

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The figures for the last five years are given below :—

(*a*) Rent of independent shops.

Year.	*Kind of shop.*	*Revenue realised from rentals.*		
		Rs.	Ch.	C.
	Independent arrack shops ...	4,40,803	5	8
1103	do. toddy shops ...	11,82,788	21	12
	do. opium and ganja shops ...	1,70,844	21	0
	Total...	17,94,436	20	4
	do. arrack shops ...	5,33,318	11	5
1104	do. toddy shops ...	14,78,605	3	0
	do. opium and ganja shops ...	2,67,660	0	0
	Total...	22,79,583	14	5
	do. arrack shops ...	5,23 014	8	1
1105	do. toddy shops ...	14,65,964	15	9
	do opium and ganja shops ...	3,25,839	27	13
	Total...	23,19,818	23	7
	do. arrack shops ...	3,83,267	10	6
1106	do. toddy shops ...	11,37,742	20	0
	do. opium and ganja shops ...	2,68,031	27	10
	Total...	17,89,042	2	0
	do. arrack shops ...	2,98,705	16	0
1107	do. toddy shops ..	9,95,205	19	13
	do. opium and ganja shops ...	2,04,635	15	15
	Total ...	14,98,546	23	12

(*b*) Tree-tax.

Year.	Rs.	Chs.	C
1103	4,51,349	11	14
1104	5,31,613	10	4
1105	5,04,690	0	7
1106	3,39,242	7	6
1107	3,39,995	15	12

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the member be pleased to state whether any uniformity is kept up in the matter of rentals in the various taluks?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The shops are sold in open auction. No uniformity is possible.

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MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: At least with respect to the shops in the same taluk, may I know whether any uniformity is being kept up?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: As I said, it is not possible to have uniformity, since the shops are sold in open auction.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the department keeps in view any definite proportion between rentals and consumption?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I submit, Sir, that questions are being asked without understanding the position.

PRESIDENT: It is for you, Mr. Madhavan, to help the members to understand the position.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Does the department keep in mind the proportion between the quantity of arrack consumed and the rental?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is considered mainly by the bidders; the department takes care to see that the rentals are sufficiently high.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is it a fact that, because rentals are not kept uniform even within a taluk, some shops, the rentals of which are low, are able to undersell?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I have already stated that it is not possible to maintain any uniformity. All the shops may not be valued alike. It is the bidders that value the shops and make offers in their bids. Further, the situation of the different shops is also responsible for their being valued differently.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I am afraid that the member has not understood me. I will illustrate my position by an example. Suppose there is a shop at Chenthittai where the consumption is two-hundred and fifty gallons and the rental is Rs. 2,500. The vend-rent per gallon would come to Rs. 10. Similarly let us take it that there is a shop at Pettah.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI (*Mavelikara and Kartikapalli* cum *Kunnattur*): On a point of order, Sir. The member is making a small speech at question time.

PRESIDENT: He will not be out of order if he confines himself to one instance.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Suppose there is a shop at Pettah with a consumption of 300 gallons and a rental of Rs. 1,500, so that the vend-rent per gallon would come to only Rs. 5. It is certainly possible for the Pettah man to undersell. This could be avoided if the department would maintain uniformity in the rentals.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It is a fact that the rentals for different shops vary, but the rentals are fixed by sales in auction in advance. For instance, for 1109, shops are sold in 1107. Bidders make their own calculations based on the consumption in 1106 or the previous

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year, and bid at the auction. So far as the department is concerned, we see that the rental is sufficiently high. That is our look-out.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: May I know whether the price of arrack is not fixed by the department?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: The supply price and the duty are fixed by the department; so far as the sale price is concerned it is left to the shop contractors. The department is not concerned with that.

Bills assented to by His Highness the Maha Raja.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, I beg to report to the Council that the following Bills have received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja:—

1. The Travancore Provident Insurance Societies Bill (Regulation III of 1108).
2. The Travancore Town-Planning Bill (Regulation IV of 1108).
3. The Travancore Wills Regulation Amendment Bill (Regulation V of 1108).
4. The Travancore Chitties Regulation Amendment Bill (Regulation VI of 1108).
5. The Travancore Kshatriya Bill (Regulation VII of 1108).
6. The Travancore Insolvency Bill (Regulation VIII of 1108).
7. The Travancore Police Regulation Amendment Bill (Regulation IX of 1108).
8. The Travancore Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill (Regulation X of 1108).
9. The Travancore Muslim Succession Bill (Regulation XI of 1108).
10. The Travancore Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation Amendment Bill (Regulation XII of 1108).

PRESIDENT: During the general discussion of the budget, each member, other than the Financial Secretary, will be allowed fifteen minutes, and during the voting of demands ten minutes. Demands under Land Revenue, Education and Public Works will be given half a day each and the other demands an hour and a quarter each. In calculating the time for the discussion of demands, the time taken for answering questions will not be included: and the demands for which half a day has been allowed will be allowed two and a half hours each, that is to say, Land Revenue, Education and Public Works will have two and a half hours each; and the other demands an hour and a quarter each. Except on the last day when all the demands will be put at five o'clock, the House will rise daily at half past four.

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